

Austria's Reply a Defense of U-Boats; Unacceptable to U. S.

WEATHER—Rain or snow probable to-night and Friday

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The

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WOOD ASKED \$5,000 FOR CONTRACT; "WORTH IT," HE SAID, SWEARS WITNESS

WILSON AND LANSING REJECT THE DEMANDS OF AUSTRIA FOR PROOF AGAINST U-BOAT

Official Text of Note Not Yet Received in Washington, but It Is Declared There Will Be No Further Discussion of the Facts.

NOT BOUND, SAYS VIENNA, BY NOTE ON LUSITANIA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Austria's reply to Secretary Lansing's note on the Ancona is regarded, on the basis of the unofficial reports received to-day from London and Amsterdam, as wholly unsatisfactory, unacceptable and disappointing to the United States. Diplomatic relations between the two countries may safely be described as standing at the breaking point.

The cabled extracts from the Austrian reply indicate that the Austro-Hungarian Government complains of the sharpness of the American note; says the note omits the evidence concerning the attack on the Ancona, to which "it must attribute a higher degree of trustworthiness than to a commander of the Imperial Royal Navy;" calls for more specific details covering the fate of American citizens; rejects the idea that Austro-Hungary is bound by the correspondence with Germany on the Lusitania case and declares the Austro-Hungarian Government "must preserve full liberty to urge its own legal interpretations during the discussion of the Ancona case."

WILL REFUSE TO DISCUSS FACTS.

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing are reserving comment until they have the official translation and text at hand, but it is stated authoritatively that the United States will enter into no exchange of opinion as suggested and absolutely will decline to discuss the facts of the torpedoing and shelling of the Ancona by an Austrian submarine, with loss of American lives.

Soon after noon the State Department began to receive a long dispatch from Ambassador Penfield. Officials said it was not the Austrian Government's reply to the Ancona note, but was a personal report of an informative nature on the situation from the Ambassador himself. There was no indication of when the text of the reply would be received or if it was in transit.

From such part of the unofficial text as is contained in the news dispatches, officials considered the reply vague in many respects, but they were not prepared to decide whether that was caused by the translation.

The suggestion for an exchange of opinions—the virtual request for a bill of particulars of the American complaint against the action of the submarine commander—and the proposal for a discussion of the facts were clearly set forth in the unofficial text and the officials of the State Department who have knowledge of its policy unhesitatingly declared that all would be refused. It was made clear that the United States does not propose to enter into a diplomatic discussion which would have possibilities of being prolonged almost indefinitely.

NOTE BASED ON VIENNA STATEMENTS.

As Secretary Lansing based the representations in his note upon the official statement of the Austrian Admiralty itself, American officials are at a loss to understand where there is much room for discussion or dispute of facts.

American officials believed that taking as a basis the official admission of the Austrian Admiralty that the Ancona was shelled, torpedoed and sunk while passengers still were aboard, there would be little room for discussion of Secretary Lansing's contention that the commander violated the principles of international law and humanity and that it was "wanton slaughter of defenceless non-combatants."

Officials pointed out to-day that a thoroughly unsatisfactory and unresponsive reply from Austria would bring diplomatic relations between the two countries to a crisis because of the closing words of Secretary Lansing's note, which declared that "good relations between the two countries rest upon a common regard for law and humanity," and that Austria, appreciating the gravity of the case, "will accede to its (the United States) demand promptly."

Specifically, the American note demanded denouncing the sinking of the Ancona as "an illegal and indefensible act," the punishment of the commander who "perpetrated the deed" and the payment of an indemnity

WILSON AND GALT MARRIAGE LICENSE HAS BEEN ISSUED

Rev. Herbert Scott Smith of Washington Named in Document as Officiating Minister.

PAPER IS NUMBER 72,225.

Fee of \$1 Paid by Chief Usher of White House—Wedding on Saturday Night.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Bearing the big red seal of the District of Columbia, Marriage License No. 72,226 was issued at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon authorizing the Rev. Dr. Herbert Scott Smith, rector of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, to unite in marriage Woodrow Wilson and Edith Bolling Galt.

The license was obtained by Irwin H. Hoover, chief usher at the White House. He paid a \$1 fee.

The license states that the prospective bridegroom is fifty-nine, has been married once before and his first wife is deceased; that the bride-to-be is forty-three and a widow.

The wedding will take place Saturday night at Mrs. Galt's home here. Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayre are expected to-day, to stay at the White House until after the wedding. It is understood that Mrs. Galt's sister-in-law, Mrs. Reginald Pendall, and brother-in-law, Sterling Galt, editor of the *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, have been asked to attend the ceremony. Mrs. Sterling Galt is also expected. Mr. and Mrs. Rolfe E. Bolling have sailed from Panama and are due in New York to-day.

Friends of Mrs. Galt who have had the privilege of viewing the array of gifts carefully avoid mention of the donor or description of the gifts.

Among the gifts of which mention is permitted by the donors are the magnificent vase of Caidas de Parana ware, decorated with silver, presented by the Minister to Portugal and Mrs. Thomas H. Birch; the Speaker and Mrs. Clark's handsome silver coupe, marked with "G," and the statue of Pocahontas, copied from the heroic statue of the Indian maid which is to be placed on Jamestown Island next spring by the Pocahontas Memorial Association.

The gift comes from the members of the association. The sculptor is William Ordway Partridge. His models were the descendants of the Algonquians and two Indian girls, students at Columbia University, posed for the statue.

Mrs. Galt's trousseau is now complete. Yesterday a fitter called at Mrs. Galt's home and put the finishing touches to such alterations as were to be made. Mrs. Galt's sisters are responsible for the statement that they do not themselves know what the bride is to wear and that they are of the opinion that she is undecided, wavering between an elaborate afternoon gown and a three-piece suit of anemist velvet. The members of the family merely smile when there is talk of an elaborate wedding gown of white satin.

Mrs. Galt is wearing a new pin, a diamond bar fully four inches long and a half inch wide, which is said to be the gift of the President. It is a striking ornament, and is the more conspicuous as Mrs. Galt seldom wears jewels.

So many gifts have come to Mrs. Galt's residence in the last few days that there is no longer any attempt to unpack the articles unless there are some means of identification. Just one hint to those desiring to send gifts to Mrs. Galt: Don't send a dog. Mrs. Bolling, mother of the President's fiancée, is responsible for

Recalled Attaches as They Looked To-Day Snapped on Fifth Avenue



This is the first photograph taken of the two German officers since the United States Government asked the Kaiser to recall them. Capt. Boy-Ed tried hard to dodge the camera.

JESSE SELIGMAN KILLS WIFE AND ENDS OWN LIFE

Mystery in Tragedy at the Gloversville Home of New York Broker's Son.

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Jesse Seligman, treasurer of the Gloversville Leather Company, and Mrs. Seligman were found dead in bed at their home here to-day. In Seligman's hand was a revolver with which he had evidently killed his wife and then shot himself.

In an adjoining room was their little daughter, Mary, three years old to-day, playing with some birthday gifts and dressed for a party her parents had arranged for her this afternoon. Seligman left a note reading: "This is the only way out of it."

Jesse Seligman was a son of Albert J. Seligman of the brokerage firm of Seligman & Meyer of New York and a nephew of Henry Seligman of the banking firm of J. & W. Seligman, also of this city.

Albert Seligman left his office after learning of his son's death. It was thought to go to Gloversville. Henry Seligman said he could not ascribe any cause for his nephew's act.

The statement that one dog was positively returned to the sender.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 16.—It is understood here that President Wilson and his fiancée, Mrs. Norman Galt, will spend at least a portion of their honeymoon on Jekyll Island. Secretary Weatherly of the Board of Trade of Brunswick, acknowledges that this information has reached him unofficially, but declares he has not received any definite news on the matter. The information reaching Brunswick is to the effect that the President and his bride will make the trip as far as Charleston by water and there take a private train for Brunswick.

BOY-ED DIDN'T OBTAIN WILSON SECRET REPORT

Report He Did Is Officially Denied, but Government Seeks Lost Plans of Warship.

A circumstantial story of the possession by Capt. Boy-Ed, German Naval Attaché, of a confidential memorandum of the condition of the United States Navy, which had been prepared for President Wilson, was told here by friends of the Wilson Administration to-day.

According to the story, the document found its way into Capt. Boy-Ed's office before it was in the hands of the President, and an American employee in the attaché's office, at No. 11 Broadway, communicated the news to Washington.

Secretary Lansing informed the correspondent of *The Evening World* at Washington to-day that the story had no basis in fact. So did Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, who added that no such memorandum had been prepared for the President.

Government agents are still searching, it is admitted, for the plans of the battleship *Pennsylvania*, which were stolen from the Navy Department on the night of the inauguration of President Wilson.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—It is regarded as doubtful whether the successors of Captains Boy-Ed and Von Papen will be appointed by Emperor William until the end of the war.

Count Von Bernstorff, it is authoritatively stated, may suggest that successors would be undesirable at this time, if he already has not done so.

STEAMER IN TROUBLE.

ST. MICHAEL'S, Dec. 16.—It is reported here that the Norwegian steamer *Marie di Glacis*, which left New York Dec. 1 for Lisbon, was passed Dec. 9 in latitude 39 north, disabled and was endeavoring to make Bermuda.

MRS. A. DREXEL WINS AGAINST HUSBAND IN MONEY SUIT

Millionaire Tries to Evade Payment of \$50,000 a Year Under Separation Deed.

TESTIMONY IS BITTER.

Wife Declared He Had Called United States, His Native Land, "A Rotten Hole."

LONDON, Dec. 16.—A judgment in favor of Margaria Armstrong Drexel, wife of the American banker, Anthony J. Drexel, was rendered to-day in her suit to recover money under a separation deed.

The point involved was Mr. Drexel's motion to set aside the service of a notice of a writ by the wife to recover money due under the deed on the ground that his domicile was France and that therefore he was outside the jurisdiction of the English courts.

Justice Neville, who tried the case in the Chancery Court, ruled that England was the domicile of Mr. Drexel. He therefore entered judgment in favor of Mrs. Drexel and dismissed the husband's motion with costs.

Sir Edward Carson, who represented Mrs. Drexel, argued that Mr. Drexel took the ground "that he could not be sued in America because he had no residence here, because he could not be sued in France because divorce proceedings were pending, and could not be sued here because he was not ordinarily a resident of this country."

"Therefore, it came to this," Sir Edward continued, "that the wife could not get the money at all."

He contended Mr. Drexel had urged his wife to go to Paris on the ground that it would be easier to obtain a divorce there, although Mr. Drexel at that time had no intention of going to Paris if he could avoid it. His purpose, Sir Edward continued, was that Mrs. Drexel go to Paris and that he should be a party to her divorce proceedings.

Mr. Drexel had attempted to free himself from the separation agreement, Sir Edward added, by compelling his wife to abandon her rights, either by going through a fictitious form of divorce proceedings in Paris or by submitting otherwise to such terms as the husband dictated.

The Court concurred in this view. Under the separation deed Mr. Drexel was to give his wife \$50,000 a year and the use of the house in Grosvenor Square.

Mrs. Drexel was very bitter against her husband when she took the witness stand. Among her accusations was one that he cast a slur on his native land, the United States. In an affidavit she credits him with this startling declaration:

"Nothing could induce me to live in that rotten hole—America. I dislike the country and its people. England is the only country for gentlemen to live in. The French are too effeminate—too much like powder puffs."

The wife also charges that Mr. Drexel desired to expatriate himself and become a subject of King George until he was advised that as a British subject he would be obliged to yield his trusteeship under his father's will.

Mr. Drexel, in answering affidavits, denied the statements attributed to him regarding America. He retorted that these sentiments were fostered by his wife and children.

He declared he had great affection and admiration for the French people, and that in his application for a domicile in France, made in June and granted in November, he announced his intention of applying for French naturalization.

WOOD OFFERED "INFLUENCE" ON A CONTRACT BEFORE HIM, JOHNSON TELLS INQUISITORS

Signal Firm's Agent Tried to Get Money From His Concern and, Failing, Told Wood He "Couldn't Talk to Him."

SAYS WOOD ARRANGED TALK IN HIS PRIVATE OFFICE

Public Service Commissioner Robert C. Wood was directly accused at the hearing of the Thompson Investigating Committee to-day of suggesting that he be paid \$5,000 for his influence in awarding a contract for signals in the Centre Street subway loop. The charge came in the testimony of Sydney G. Johnson, now with the General Railway Signal Company, but formerly a salesman for the Union Switch and Signal Company of Swissville, Pa.

Johnson swore that while the contract was pending before Commissioner Wood the Commissioner made an appointment with him in a private office Wood had in Exchange Place, and there asked if "it was worth a commission if he could influence it (the signal contract) for us." "He said a job of that size should be worth \$5,000," the witness added.

Johnson then told of putting the proposition before the directors of the Union Switch and Signal Company, of their failure to agree to it, and of telling Wood later that "he could not talk to him on the matter he proposed."

Johnson is a small, pallid man in the early thirties. He was examined by Counsel Merton E. Lewis. Before the questioning began Senator Thompson warned him that the committee was after the whole truth, and asked him whether he would waive immunity.

"I'm here," Johnson replied, "to tell all I know and to tell the truth. I won't sign anything that might deprive me of my legal rights." Senator Thompson nodded. "Then you do not waive immunity," he said. "Very well."

Mr. Johnson testified that, although he went with the General Railway Signal Company on Aug. 1, 1914, he did not begin to work on the job until Sept. 1, and he was not formally put in charge of sales until Nov. 1. He had been with the Union Switch & Signal Company for fifteen years. He was general sales manager in the company's office, No. 30 Church Street, New York, for three or four years. Before that he had been construction engineer.

"Had you to do with presenting a bid concerning the Centre Street loop of the Brooklyn subway?"

"Yes. There was a small job first, and then an extension of the Centre Street loop. It was some time in 1914. The bid was submitted to the chief engineer of the company. I believe the Federal, the General and the Union all made bids."

"Who was low bidder?"

"The Federal Signal Company of Albany—\$196,000."

"You were next low bidder?"

"Yes, with \$200,000."

"Tell us what happened."

WOOD ASKED HIM TO GET DETAILS.

"As I recall it the bids were not acted on right away; held up for some time by the company. A little later on Commissioner Wood telephoned me to get some details we were figuring on. I went over and told him what I could about our system. He asked me a great many questions. This was at an office of his in the Park Row Building. I told him I didn't think the Federal Company had a license under the patent and that the General and our company—"

(Continued on Second Page.)